

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Implant used in procedures for stiffening the vertebral column, the implant comprising an enclosed hollow body which includes at least ~~two a movable open interior receptacle and a movable open exterior receptacle~~ ~~movable open receptacles~~ (3, 4),

~~said receptacles are~~ oriented toward one another, ~~and which~~ interlock, and ~~can be~~ ~~are movable from a first position to a second~~ spread apart ~~position~~ by inserting a filling material or by utilizing a filling material made of an elastomer [[12]] in order to expand the hollow body [[1]], ~~wherein the implant is bean shaped and has a front end and a rear end, the front end is wedge shaped and is insertable into a vertebral disc space, wherein the rear end comprises an implantation instrument attachment and is adapted for connection to a device used to generate a filling pressure, and~~

~~one of the receptacles fits within the other of the receptacles when the receptacles are in the first position.~~

2. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~there are the implant consists of~~ two of the ~~open~~ receptacles [(3, 4)] which interlock.

3. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant ~~can be connected~~ ~~is connectable~~ to a supply hose [[6]].

4. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 3, wherein an other end of the supply hose [[6]] is adapted for connection to [[a]] said device used to generate a filling pressure.

5. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 3, wherein the implantation instrument attachment comprises an opening [[8]] for connecting the supply hose [[6]] ~~is also used for attaching an instrument (5) used to insert the hollow body (1).~~

6. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the filling material ~~is made of~~ comprises a tissue compatible, liquid or initially liquid phase, self hardening material.

7. (Original) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is structured or coated on at least one part ~~or over an entire surface~~ thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles ~~(3,4)~~ forming the hollow body are sealed with one another.

9. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles ~~(3,4)~~ forming the hollow body are adjustable relative to each other, whereby adjusting movement is limited to a certain area, which ensures a mutual overlapping of the receptacles ~~(3,4)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 9, wherein the adjusting movement between the ~~two~~ receptacles [[3,4]] is limited through a screw [[9]] in one of the ~~two~~ receptacles catching in a slit [[10]] in the other of the ~~two~~ receptacles.
11. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the elastomer [[12]] is filled into an inner portion of the hollow body [[1]].
12. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 11, wherein the elastomer ~~(12)-completely or at least~~ partially fills the hollow body [[1]].
13. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 11, wherein the elastomer ~~(12)-filled into the hollow body (1)~~ is ~~loosely or firmly~~ fitted to an inner side wall of the hollow body [[1]].
14. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein inner surfaces of upper and bottom walls [[16,15]] of the interlocking receptacles ~~(3,4)-of the hollow body (1)-penetrate into are generally planar and contact the filled-in elastomer~~ [[12]] when compressed.
15. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a hollow space is left below the ~~filled-in~~ elastomer [[12]], which is between the elastomer [[12]] and a bottom wall [[15]] of the interlocked receptacles ~~(3,4)-of the hollow body (1)~~.
16. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein an airtight air bubble [[17]] is incorporated in the elastomer [[12]].

17. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the hollow body is compressed to minimum height before implantation and a device, such as a ~~clamping screw (18)~~, is attached to the hollow body [[1]] to expand the hollow body [[1]] after implantation.

18. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein ~~an exterior one of the receptacles (3) of the hollow body (1) has a wedge shaped insertion end (10) the front end is arranged on the exterior receptacle.~~

19. (Original) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the implant is manufactured from metal, polymer or a composite material.

20. (Original) Implant according to claim 19, wherein in manufacture using polymer or composite material, elements or material are incorporated in the implant that produce radiological shadows.

21. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein the receptacles ~~(3, 4) of the hollow body (1) can be~~ are pressurized and have a form of a partial cylinder or prism, whereby base and cover plates are included that are ~~even or~~ slightly arched and ~~are~~ positioned parallel or slightly slanted relative to each other.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) Implant according to claim 1, wherein a surface of the implant is at least one of structured [[and]] or coated.

Applicant: Magerl et al.
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24. (New) Implant according to claim 17, wherein said device comprises a clamping screw.